

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-77 will be pending of which claims 1-70 have been acknowledged by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter. *See* paragraph 9 of the outstanding Office Action.

Relative to the Amendment dated July 15, 2002, claims 1-70 and 73-74 have remained unchanged. Claims 71-72 and 75-77 differ in that:

- (a) Claim 71 has been revised to indicate that the first epoxy resin is selected from the group consisting of epoxy phenolic novolac resins and epoxy cresol novolac resins. Furthermore, the water limitation has been removed.
- (b) Claim 72 has been revised to remove the acrylate limitation and include a water limitation.
- (c) Claim 75 has been revised to include that the composition comprises a polyol and above 0.75wt% of water, and that the equivalent weight ratio of epoxy to polyol is above 3.5. Furthermore, the relative humidity of above 50% has been changed to about 40% to 80%. *See, e.g.,* page 8, lines 59-64, of the specification.
- (d) Claim 76 has been changed to remove the bottom water limitation of 0.2wt% in view of the inclusion of above 0.75wt% water in claim 75.
- (e) Claim 77 has been cancelled and replaced with a new claim 77. New claim 77 largely corresponds to amended claim 75, with the note that claim 77 further comprises a composition formulation step. Specifically, claim 77 includes the step of adding 0.75wt%-3wt% of water to the composition to equilibrate it to the room humidity of about 40-80%.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced with the above amendments. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Re: Paragraph 3 of the outstanding Office Action

Applicants intend to submit the original patent, or a statement as to loss or inaccessibility thereof, upon the indication by the Examiner that all outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102, §103, §112, and §251 have been overcome.

Re: Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the outstanding Office Action

Claims 75-77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §251. To expedite prosecution, the claims have been revised bearing in mind the Examiner's concerns. Applicants note, for instance, that claims 75-77 include the presence in the composition of a polyol and above 0.75wt% water, and that the claims feature that the equivalent weight ratio of epoxy to polyol is above 3.5. Furthermore, although also not believed to be necessary, Applicants have included an equilibration step in claim 77. It is respectfully submitted that all claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Re: Paragraphs 10 and 11 of the outstanding Office Action

Applicants intend to submit a Supplemental Declaration upon the indication by the Examiner that all outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102, §103, §112, and §251 have been overcome.

Re: Paragraphs 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17 of the outstanding Office Action

Claims 71-74 stand rejected as being anticipated by several references. Applicants have reviewed the references and respectfully submit that none of them, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a composition comprising at least two epoxy resins, including a first epoxy resin polymerizing at a slower rate and having a higher neat viscosity than at least one other epoxy resin present, *wherein the first epoxy resin is selected from the group consisting of epoxy phenolic novolac resins and epoxy cresol novolac resins* -- much less a composition wherein the at least one other epoxy resin includes a cycloaliphatic epoxy (as in claim 74). Consequently, it is respectfully submitted that claims 71-74, similar to claims 1-70 and 75-77, are clearly distinguished from the prior art.

For any and all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over the prior art and in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §251.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all rejections have been addressed and that all 35 U.S.C. §102, §103, §112, and §251 rejections have been overcome. If, after reviewing the above, the Examiner believes any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,
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